



STRENGTHENING SOCIAL SECURITY: BY THE NUMBERS

Number of years ago President Reagan and Congress enacted what they thought was a 75-year fix for Social Security¹:

22 years ago today

Number of years from now Social Security goes into the red:

12 years

Since 1983, the percentage above inflation stock investments have returned per year²:

9 percent

Typical rate of return on Social Security for an individual worker over his lifetime³:

2 percent

The value today of a dollar invested in the market in 1983⁴:

\$11

According to a survey by Harvard University's Institute of Politics released yesterday, the percentage of college students who are somewhat or very concerned Social Security will not pay out benefits when they retire⁵:

Nearly 70 Percent

¹ P.L. 98-21 (H.R. 1900), The Social Security Amendments of 1983 were signed on April 20, 1983. [Read a summary of the amendments online.](#)

² President Bush, Remarks on Social Security in Columbia, SC, April 18, 2004. [Read a transcript of the President's remarks.](#)

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Harvard University's Institute of Politics (IOP), "Survey of Student Attitudes: The Global Generation," survey of 1206 college students conducted March 21 to April 4, 2005. [Read a summary of the findings.](#)